Between the Lines

**The Christian Layman's Information Service—
Condensed, Non-Denominational**

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Moving Spotlight

Greeks vs British

Tremendous propaganda pressure has been exerted by the London government to justify Churchill's policy in Greece. Americans have been led to believe that the Greek forces which the British fought were composed of rabid communist mobsters, guilty of mass shootings and executions. While it is true that the ELAS was controlled by Greek guerilla veterans, many of whom were communists, it is also true that ordinary Greek farmers and workers made up a large proportion of that group. They do not want the old British-sponsored dictatorship forced back upon them, and such was Churchill's intention until he had to moderate his policy.

Here are some facts reaching America through underground labor sources which give another side to the picture. Some British troops refused to fight the Greek ELAS. Censorship kept secret the fact that this revolt was widespread. Many of the soldiers had fought in Greece against the Nazis and rebelled against the idea of fighting the people they had come to liberate. Indian native troops figured in the revolt. They would naturally resent British imperialistic policies wherever carried out.

The British occupational forces have tried to compel the Greek populace to draw away from the ELAS by practising discrimination in the handing out of food in Athens. The sections where the ELAS members were strong, the working-class quarters, got no soup-kitchens, whereas the sections whose inhabitants supported the government received help and supplies. Another moved designed to divide the Greeks among themselves was the suppression of the facts concerning hostages held by the ELAS. Churchill condemned the ELAS for refusing to release hostages, although the previous week the Red Cross had reported that 1,500 hostages were being released daily. Churchill must have known about the Red Cross statement, but he was apparently following his formerly voiced

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THE CHURCH'S MESSAGE during past generations has tended to emphasize the theology of religion rather than the application of religion. Tens of thousands of sermons have been preached on the doctrines of the trinity, blood atonement, the resurrection and the premillennium, while pillars of the congregation sit comfortably unconcerned that their wealth and ease derives from systems of exploitation, deception and cruelty. The Church's message from now on must emphasize the application of religion, not dropping theology but interpreting it into life with challenge and directness. Many courageous young pastors are already doing this and they report progress not only because of additions in the pews but also because of frequent explosions in the pews.

X-Ray and Forecast

Plans for Peace

While the State Department and White House continue a great campaign over the radio and in the press to sell the American people the Dumbarton Oaks-Yalta peace plan, we believe our subscribers should know that opposition to those plans continues to grow greater than the general public realizes.

The opposition is not composed exclusively of former isolationist groups as the propagandists endeavor to imply. Responsible and influential figures such as David Lawrence, editor of United States News, a powerful voice in the world of business, The Christian Century, important world Protestant voice, most leading Catholic periodicals, many Congressmen and others are urgently warning the American people in every way they can that the Dumbarton Oaks-Yalta formula is a betrayal of American ideals, American blood and American hopes. But the din of official propaganda is so loud that few Amercians hear these warning voices. When the official propaganda has spent itself, their influence will be increasingly felt.

This information service continues its position of endeavoring to keep its subscribers informed of developments on both sides and also of being grateful for what hopes of peace these limited agreements present. Since they are all we have, we do not fight them, but we shall do all possible to maintain a keen eye and an alert conscience for further developments.

The warnings concerning deceptive peace proposals are given weight by the obvious fact that Britain and Russia are continuing their secret tug of war, especially in the Balkans. The Balkans may not seem important to us, but World War III is, and in the Balkans and Near East the growing struggle between Soviet-socialist interests and imperial designs continues unabated as a likely setting for another war.

Secret Agreements

Complete suppression of major secret agreements made at Yalta, Teheran and elsewhere by the Big Three continues. We never hear about it, but little nations, and some not so small, are worried and fretful because of the admitted fact that three-fourths of the agreements now in force among the Big Three are still secret. Even agreements relative to Italy, made many months ago, are kept hidden from the Italian people! Our State Department tries to brush these secret agreements aside, but the truth is that **people all over the world refuse to have faith in a peace structure whose nature is such that it must be kept secret.** Our government no doubt would be glad to publish all of its post-war diplomatic plans, but is compelled to cooperate with forces whose traditions, concepts and undemocratic practices could not stand the light of general knowledge. While the official policy emphasizes "long war ahead," behind the scenes everyone knows the big scale war in Europe is rapidly nearing the end and that peace problems will be on us before we are prepared for them.

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Moving Spotlight

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opinion that "No credit must be given either to EAM or ELAS."

There is no question but that the communists within the ELAS did commit atrocities, but the above report gives us an idea of the way both the communists and the British conservatives have warped the truth to justify their actions and intentions.

Polish Army Protests Yalta

Little news has leaked out concerning the Polish Army which has been fighting against the Nazis with our boys in Italy. This Polish Army is composed of troops who fled before the Russian advance into Poland in 1939 or who had been interned by the Soviets until 1941. The commander has pledged to the men under him support of the London-Polish government in defiance of the Yalta Polish decision. Some reports reaching this country state that many Poles committed suicide in formal ceremonies to protest the Yalta settlement.

Nationalization of Resources

It is unquestionably true that demands for the extension of socialistic reforms are running underground through the working masses of England. British coal miners are demanding that all coal mines be nationalized. Great strikes that are now prevailing in many British coal areas have this issue as the basic point of conflict.

Also, the new demands John L. Lewis is making for the American coal miners have in the background the plan of gradually developing a situation that will lead to the nationalization of American coal mines. Union leaders and many left-of-center government officials believe that all American resources such as coal, water power, oil and timber should be nationalized. This will be an issue of increasing importance in years to come.

Candidate

Congressman Lawrence Smith reports from Washington that Miss Paulette Guffey, sister of Senator Guf-

X-Ray and Forecast

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Meeting Place

The world now fully realizes that Russia has become the predominant world power. Churchill saves his face by pluming himself with resonant oratory. Roosevelt preserves as much prestige as possible by his usual cunning strategic maneuvers, but the whole world has become aware of what columnist Phillips describes as "Stalin's Position:"

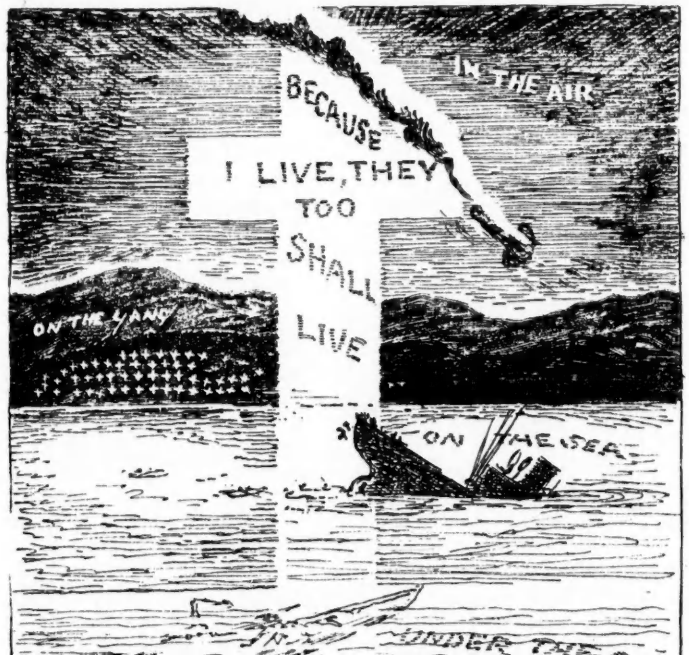
I'll gladly meet you any place
No matter where it be
Provided I select the spot
And you boys come to ME!

Inflation

America is now coming flat up against inflation in spite of strenuous government controls. Everything bought or sold is edging higher in price. Money volume, cash in circulation and deposits are now over three times as great as they were in 1940, five times as great as the boom days of the late '20's. If it were not for the firm government control that so many people resent, bread would now be selling for 35¢ a loaf and eggs for $1.50 a dozen—or more.

Farms or Furs

The public does not realize the real danger of an inflation that would wipe out savings, investment values, insurance and other income investments. Already some of those expensive private information services in the financial world have sent out warnings to their wealthy clients to put money in "tangibles"—diamonds, precious jewels, land, even fur coats. And real estate values are climbing, which only pyramids the danger of inflation.



No Shortages in Canada

American civilians are being harassed by meat and cigarette shortages, their nerves are strained by severe military draft regulations and a proposed labor draft, while in Canada living conditions appear to be much easier. Are the citizens of the United States being victimized by their leadership and is the censorship conspiring to hide the extent of such victimization by suppressing news which might invite comparison?

Canadian forces overseas are fighting competently and fiercely but the facts still remain that conscription in Canada has only recently been put in effect and even that is easygoing and far from severe. Canadian draft for overseas service, contrary to propaganda implications, is opposed by as many, or more, English-speaking draftees outside of Quebec as by French-speaking draftees within the province. And, of course, by now the report of the 6,000 drafted men who went AWOL when they were scheduled for overseas transport is famous, as is Churchill's remark that 70 to 80 Americans were lost to each Britisher in the Battle of the Bulge.

Draft inconsistencies and inequalities are not the only points of friction. American made cigarettes are abundant in Canada, and Canadian officials admit that their storage plants are filled to capacity with meat. Canadians can obtain any desired amount of meat without ration points, and, say the Canadian officials, a surplus exists which could be turned over to the United States were Washington officials interested. So far they evidence no interest at all.

Concentrated Wealth

This gives you an idea about the increasing concentration of wealth in America; three-tenths of one per cent of all corporations got about 70 per cent of all corporate net income.

A Warning to Churches

Telling how his first instinctive opposition to the Russian revolution had gradually given way to the belief that that revolution had proven to be "a

Congressman Lawrence Smith reports from Washington that Miss Paulette Guffey, sister of Senator Guffey, was asked by a group of Republican ladies what the Democrats will do when F. D. R. dies. Miss Guffey says the answer is simple: "We'll stuff him, run him again, and by gad he'll win!"

Cost-Plus Bribery

Scandals of plunder and wastage will some day be revealed as resulting from the government "cost-plus" system of war contracts, claims Lindsay Warren, aggressive Comptroller General of the United States Treasury. Testimony brought out before a Congressional committee on war costs described "cost-plus" as a system which guarantees manufacturers a profit in proportion to the costs. The higher the costs, the greater the profits. This arrangement has encouraged the hoarding and wastage of manpower, and Mr. Warren testified that, according to his estimates, the American taxpayer has been nicked 50 billion dollars, or one-fifth of the war cost, because of this form of plunder. The Comptroller General also charged that sub-contractors were being forced by the cost-plus contractors to pay "kick-backs" on sub-contracts granted. He urged that controls be set up which would give his department power to investigate these "commercial bribes" and to sue for civil recovery.

Surplus Disposal

The disposal of surplus government war goods has been accompanied by shocking "irregularities," according to the findings of the Senate Committee headed by Senator James Mead of New York. A New York organization, Surplus Liquidators, Inc., was given a contract to auction off $500,000 worth of materials and equipment, and the committee's investigations revealed that expensive parties and gifts of nylon stockings and money ($25,000 worth) were a part of the "surplus disposal."

Those who defended the surplus racketeers testified that such irregular practices had the approval of the Defense Plant Corporation which at that time was headed by Jesse Jones. In spite of this, big business has been vociferously lauding Jones during the past weeks.

EASTER PROMISE—UNLIMITED!

This year thousands who have never stopped to consider what Easter really means will turn to its promise in lonely helplessness. But the glory of God's promises is that they rise to fill any human need, no matter how new or how great. In the greatness of His presence, in the vastness of His power, no distant coral reef, no palm fringed sky, no depth of the restless sea lies beyond His sight or care. With an overflowing sense of relief also comes the remembrance of God's Son incarnate in human form, overcoming death to reveal to men through the ages that they may also be masters over death. If this Easter season your heart bears a new grief that stretches far beyond your knowledge and understanding to some unknown distant scene, here is God's promise for you—unlimited!

Boom to Bees

The zero hour of this trend will come after the war is over. Unless still more severe market controls are instituted by the government, an economic bedlam may result that would long delay the arrival of a post-war stablized economy. Government control is distasteful to all, and the same crowd which shouted the loudest for us to get into the war is now howling the loudest about government controls. Yet that group stands to lose the most in the chaos of inflation.

Christian laymen who are high ranking economists are advising that, although there will no doubt be a two or three year post-war boom, the average citizen should begin to tighten up all lines of spending, curtail extravagant living, and put money in a small accessible farm even if land prices have gone up, rather than drift along on the spendthrift tide of easy money. Maybe you'd better buy that lot next door and start putting in that big year-around garden plot you've been talking about—(including those late fall berries and the bees)—and start living solidly from the ground up. It may save you from hitting that ground with a hard bump later . . . so say the skilled watchers of economic trends.

Apparently it's either that—a hard, gruelling ordeal of saving the capitalistic system in the inevitable violent economic sickness that always follows war—or, under pressure of labor and left-wing influences in our government, we may sail through a brief post-war boom right into an out-and-out socialized economy. In that case, you can play croquet on that lot and turn loose the bees. Or, more correctly, you and the bees both would have to start working for the government. Then who'd get the honey? And who'd get stung!

Poll Tax on the Way Out

The South is taking courageous action by its own reform of its election laws. The repeal of Georgia's poll tax now means that that undemocratic restriction of the voting privilege has been abolished in North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia. It is also under attack in Tennessee and Alabama. Senator Lister Hill of Alabama, is urging the people of his state to realize that only political bosses who desire to control the government for selfish purposes can benefit by poll tax laws. He points out that the Alabama poll tax serves to keep from the polls not only Negroes but also several hundred thousands of white people who are in every respect qualified to vote.

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Telling how his first instinctive opposition to the Russian revolution had gradually given way to the belief that that revolution had proven to be "a good thing for the common people of Russia and a good thing for the church," the head of the Russian Orthodox Church of America warns American churches of danger.

"The Russian Church had grown too rich, too soft," he said. "When the revolution took away our wealth we had to find our souls. I thank God for persecution. The cross means persecution. Now the Russian Church has returned to God, to spiritual life. When Stalin closed the seminaries he did a good thing, for the seminaries were corrupt. . . . May I say that I see in the Christian churches of America many of the signs of decay which I saw in the church of Russia before the revolution—considerable wealth, absence of conviction born of persecution, an easygoing religion which accepts things as they are, nominal church loyalty which is not backed up by personal character and conduct."

The correspondent who sent in this report to The Christian Century said that the Russian prelate seemed more a prophet than a priest, and that his clear perception and quality of self-criticism were a challenge to the ability of the American church to recognize its shortcomings and institute inward reforms.

Metropolitan Benjamin's confession is a very significant one, marking a complete change of attitude on the part of Russians who came to America as refugees from the communist revolution and who, up to now, have hated the communists. It also reflects the attitude of the new priesthood in Russia.

Truth About Casualties

Every Christian layman should be grateful to our government for its decision to give the public the truth concerning casualties. When casualties began to increase enormously in December, the tendency of the War Department was to withhold the facts as much as possible. That undemocratic trend was stopped by strong pressure from many sources. Today we are getting 80 per cent of the facts, although much information about nervous and mental crackups in battle is still suppressed.

X-Ray and Forecast

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Labor Developments

As you can tell by press reports, American labor unions are locked in a severe two-way struggle. The CIO has succeeded in building a strong international labor setup with the liberal British unions and powerful Soviet trade unions. Because of Russia's pre-eminence in the world scene, this has become the most powerful world labor bloc in history. The AFL is trying to hold its own with its older international affiliations, including the conservative branches of British labor, but is boycotting Russian workers.

Also, (and here is something AFL members themselves do not realize), the CIO-liberal British-Russian international setup is exerting a powerful appeal to all non-white workers throughout the world. Skillful propaganda is going out on this, stuff that the average AFL official hasn't even seen, inviting and enlisting the interest and support of millions of yellow, brown and black workers wherever they are organized or promoting organization where they are not. The AFL, still powerful in many areas but still stumbling far behind the CIO in racial matters, is hard put to it to hold prestige. The CIO-British-Russian international group is even exerting strong pressure for a place at the peace table.

At home, both the AFL and CIO are bending every effort to prepare for the veterans' return. Strikes are frowned on by both headquarters. William Green of the AFL, and Philip Murray of the CIO, are both trying to curb anti-labor trends among service men. However, both labor leaders realize that when the service man gets home and starts looking for a job, he'll soon be pro-labor again and will welcome any assistance a union can give him. The big business press has played up the anti-labor feeling among service men considerably out of proportion to the fact that two and a half million union cards are held by members of the armed services, and millions more of our fighting forces come from homes where the wage earners are members of labor's ranks. We must remember that any outbreaks against labor and unions when the veterans return will be possible only during that transition stage while the veteran changes from his uniform to his overalls. But the outbreaks may well occur, for big business and its press have used plenty of propaganda to generate such tension.

Progressive Businessmen

Some of the large monopolistic interests in this country which have been constantly working against every reform or progressive measure in our economic system are now beginning to meet with opposition almost within their own ranks. Younger, more liberal-minded industrial and financial leaders are beginning to make their attitudes felt through several new organizations and committees functioning in Washington and Wall Street. For instance, big business fought Henry Wallace's appointment because of his liberal views. The public at large does not know that many younger business leaders finally came to Wallace's aid and that at the last big business was widely admitted to have overplayed its hand and enhanced rather than hurt Wallace's place in the public mind.

The same thing is happening in the appointment of liberal-minded Aubrey Williams to the Rural Electrification Administration. This is a very important post pertaining to the development of public ownership of power and light utilities. Younger, more progressive business leaders, fed up with the tactics of the die-hard monopolists, are beginning to assert themselves in such a way as to give great hope for a more forward-looking development of America's economic future.

Bankers and Bretton Woods

The same situation reported above applies to the fight that big bankers in Wall Street are carrying on against the Bretton Woods monetary plan. Big banks with international holdings don't want government regulations to interfere with their operations. But the history of international banking is a history of wars, intrigue, cartels, monopoly and frequent betrayal of the small investor's interests. The average banker outside of Wall Street, whose interests are apt to be more directly tied to the people, realizes that legal regulation has become necessary throughout the whole domestic investment world and he is quick to realize that legal controls must also, therefore, be present in financial cooperation between the nations. Big bankers are fighting the Bretton Woods plan and in many instances are trying to force small bankers to oppose it. Yet authoritative reports which are now reaching Washington indicate that the younger, more progressive bankers over the country believe that some such international cooperative financing, under close supervision of international boards of control as proposed by Bretton Woods, must be inaugurated to prevent a complete breakdown of world trade and finance after the war.

"Whether we like it or not, the inevitable trend is that government control must displace private monopoly." That report was made to us by a young banker who has high degrees in economics and who is attached to one of America's large midwest financial houses. But a big and a significant fight is now being waged. It reaches around the world and much depends upon it. The stake is power and the big international banking houses won't give up easily a monopoly they have had for decades.

Mistake Corrected

A happy postscript to our report in the last issue concerning the Hood River American Legion's action in removing the names of Japanese-Americans from the county's honor roll has occurred. The Legionnaires have realized that they made "a mistake" and have placed the fifteen names back on the memorial list where they belong.

Stassen's Growing Influence

Watch for Commander Harold E. Stassen, former governor of Minnesota, to appear more and more frequently in places of influence and importance in the American scene. Indicative of this is his appointment as an American delegate to the San Francisco conference to be held in April. Commander Stassen is the most likely figure for outstanding leadership in the future and will probably be a presidential candidate in 1948. It is good to know that he is a devoted Christian layman who has always given time and talent liberally to the Christian cause.

Yalta Ignored Palestine Proposals

The Jewish people of America do not dare say much, but most of them feel betrayed by the two-faced policy of the Washington government relative to Jewry's major problem—Palestine. Before the election, Roosevelt made magnificent gestures toward support of the Jewish position in Palestine, but since the election the President has turned his back on the Jews and his promises to them.

At Yalta, the fate of small and medium-sized nations was determined arbitrarily, but no one seems to have mentioned Palestine. Thousands of Jews are still dying throughout Europe because Britain won't let them into Palestine, although room for many more exists there and shipping facilities are available to move them.

The President's interest in the Middle East was demonstrated by his meetings with Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, Farouk of Egypt, and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, but he held no audiences with some of the leaders of the Jewish world in Palestine—for instance, Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Why? Because the gentlemen with whom he did meet control huge oil deposits and Dr. Weizmann does not.

Reconversion Relapse

We keep hearing automobile manufacturers tell how hard it is going to be to reconvert from tanks and jeeps to automobiles. A fellow sure will feel silly if, when he opens the rumble seat of a new roadster, a three-inch gun turret pops out and starts shooting. And what if we discover that the backfire heard behind our new shiny sedan is really an automatic tail machine gun lopping off three shots a second or 180 a minute at 30 miles an hour!